

PhD Lecture

PTE Regionális Politika és Gazdaságtan Doktori Iskolája

Trends and Visions of Regional Policy in Europe – Border Regions and Cohesion

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Funded under Socio-economic Sciences & Humanities



*EU BORDER
REGIONS*

EU EXTERNAL BORDERS AND THE IMMEDIATE NEIGHBOURS.
ANALYSING REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPTIONS
THROUGH POLICIES & PRACTICES OF
CROSS-BORDER CO-OPERATION



ITÄ-SUOMEN YLIOPISTO

Are border regions “just” European peripheries and a threat to cohesion??



De-Bordering at Szelmenc = European development



Assumptions of cross-border co-operation as a development resource

- Based on economic complementarity/synergy
- Addresses pragmatic issues (problems and opportunities)
- Creates a sense of 'shared region' (a site of cross-border integration)
- Reduces negative border effects

Development Issues in Borderlands

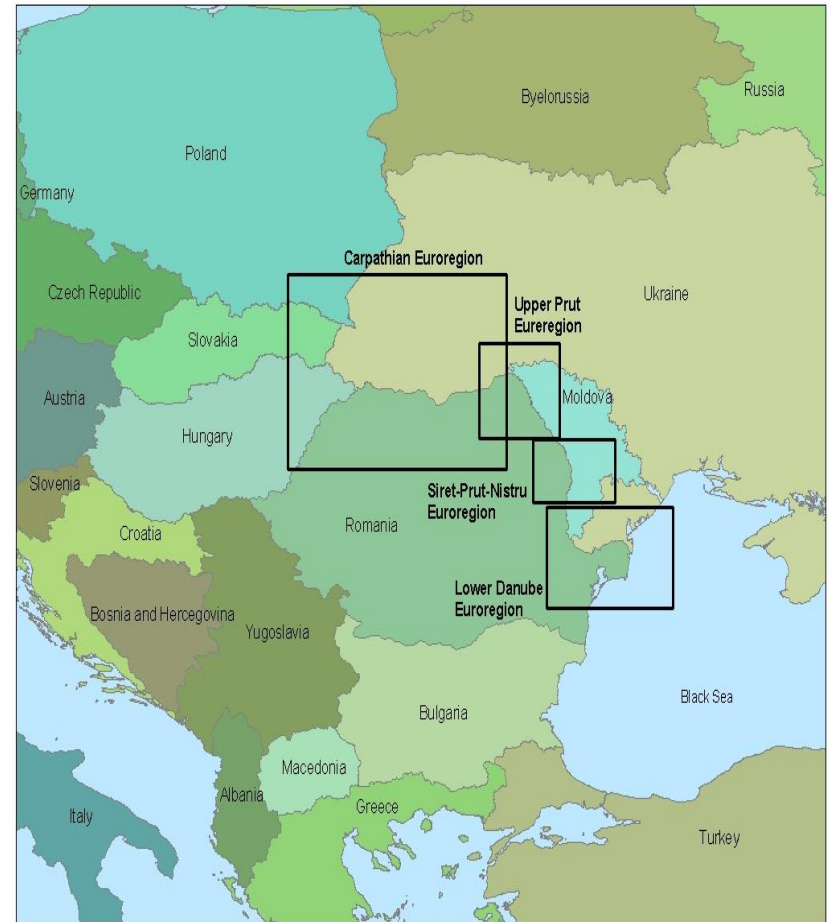
- Generally, national and European peripheries with multiple disadvantages
 - demographic decline and ageing populations
 - lack of diversified economies
 - weak urban networks
 - transfer dependency/rural subsistence economies
 - lack of connectivity to major centres
 - truncated border economies due to securitisation

Social policy and welfare are problems as well

- Economic trends and policies marginalise rural populations and weaker cities
- Cost of service provision in the periphery is high
- Burdens on local government increasing (e.g. increasing outlays, decreasing revenues)
- Multiple deprivations (especially in neighbouring states) =poverty, exploitation, violence, exclusion, public health issues

Emerging European Borderlands

- Large areas of the EU
- Extreme economic and political marginalisation
- Histories of isolation
- Regions at the “Edge” of a wider political community
- Unresolved historical and ethnic tensions

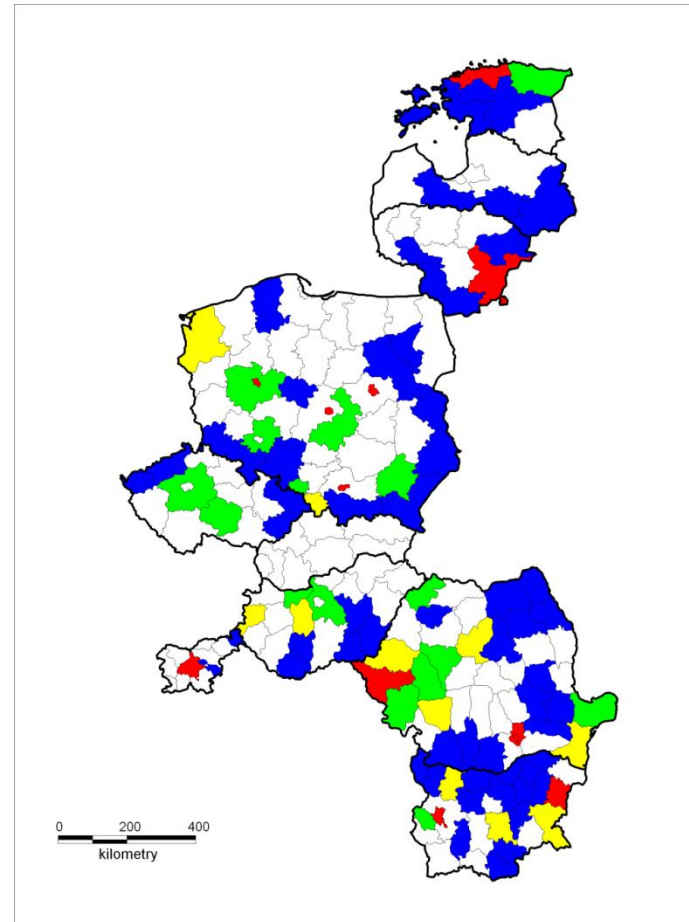
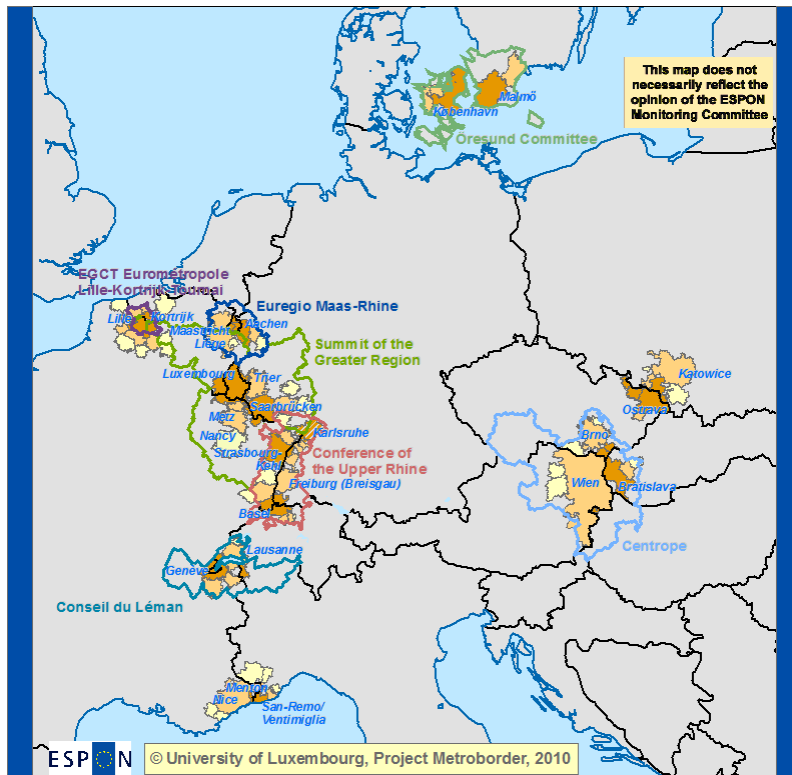


German-Polish Borderland: a model of pre-integration

- Political orchestration of a new European Order post-1989
- Selective public-sector networks
- Euroregions and other CBC institutions created
- Learning process in the use of European regional development resources



metropolisation and peripheries: 1) cross-border functional areas, 2) national consolidation



EUROPEAN UNION
Part-financed by the European Regional Development Fund
INVESTING IN YOUR FUTURE

Level: FUA
Source: ESPON Data Base, IGEAT, FOCI, 2010
Origin of Data: ESPON Data Base, IGEAT, FOCI, 2010
© EuroGeographics Association for administrative boundaries

Border region challenges to (Territorial) Cohesion

(partly based on Mirwaldt, McMaster and Bachtler 2009)

- CBC is seen to “fill the gaps” between national strategies in European cohesion
- Polycentric development : capacities, resources and social capital needed that is more available in dynamic centres, generally not at the borders - except in W. Europe
- Balanced development – designing redistributive measures that can be supported by place-based strategies in peripheral areas
- Accessibility – this is a clear West-East divide – no TEN beyond the core, for example
- Networking – physical and interactive connections hindered by borders, poor accessibility and sparser settlement

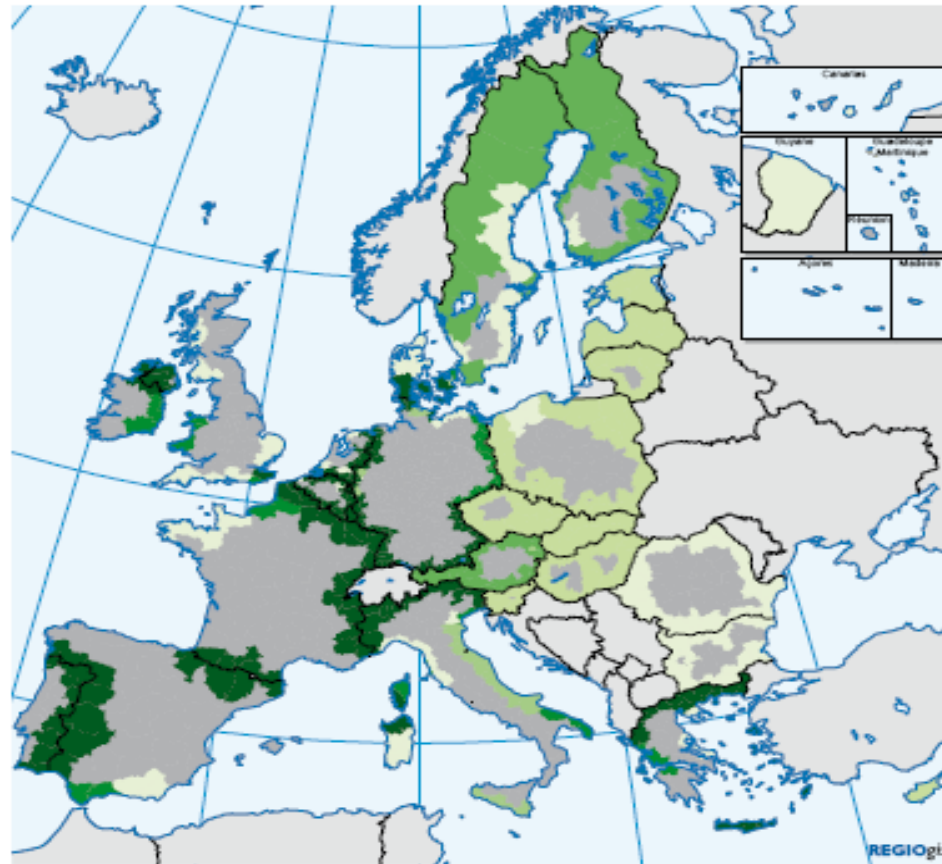
CBC programmes of the EU

INTERREG I-IV

PHARE CBC

TACIS CBC (not
on map)

ENPI-CBC (not
on map)



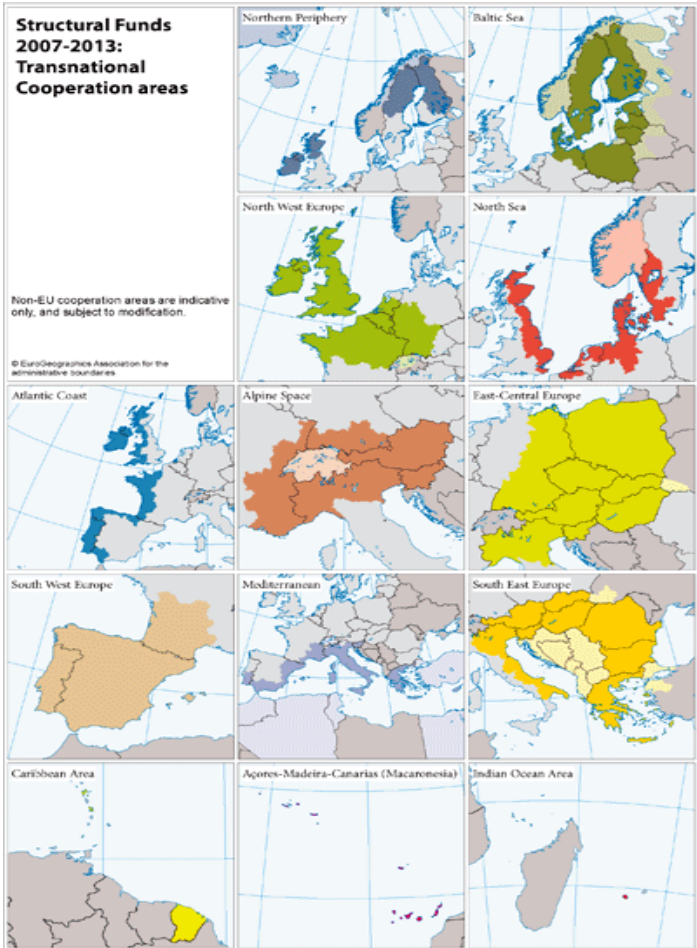
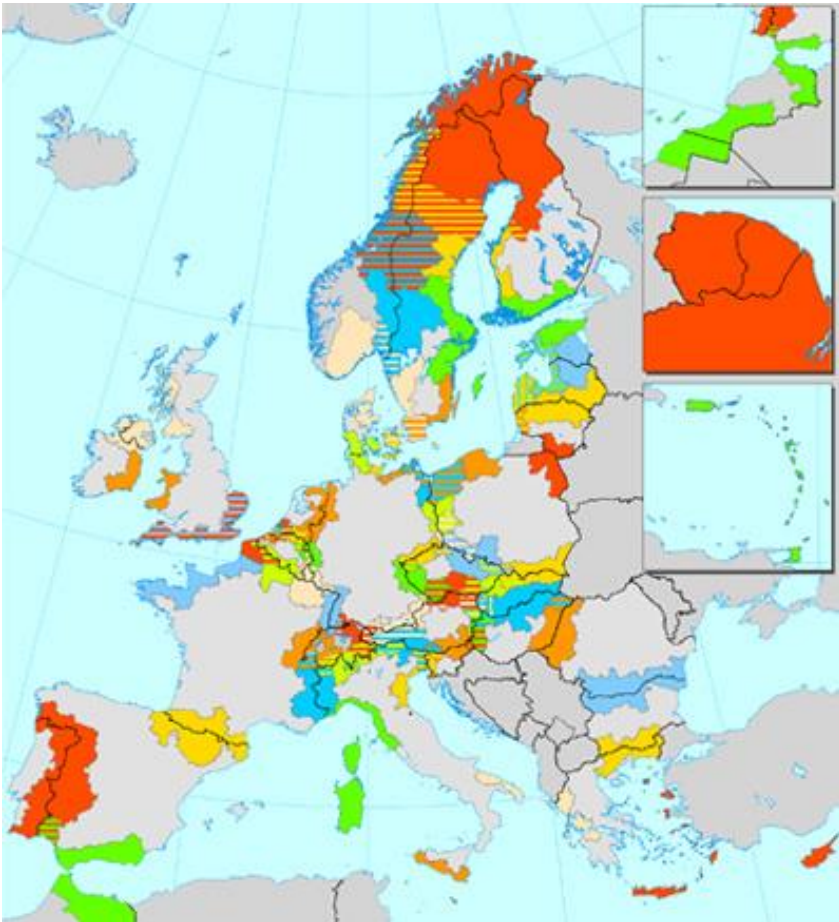
Cross-border cooperation 1989 – 2013

Participating regions



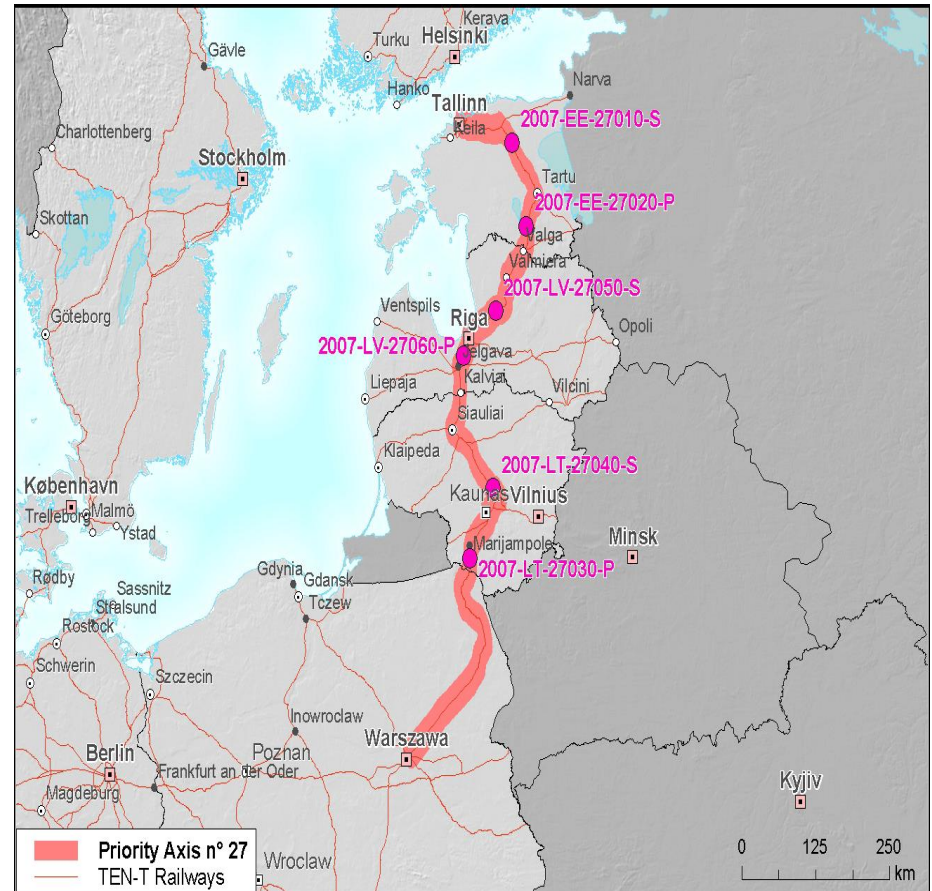
NUTSS regions as of 01/01/2008.
Including partly eligible regions.
2007-2013: including ENPI programme areas
(not covered by this publication).

European Territorial Cooperation Objective



Cohesion, Cooperation and Borders

- Opportunity structures: structural funds for project development and marketing but strategic funding is limited (example: TEN-T funding)
- Realism: greater support not forthcoming – especially at Fortress Europe's new outer edge
- What are local options?
- Place-based strategies viable in face of border effects and peripherality?

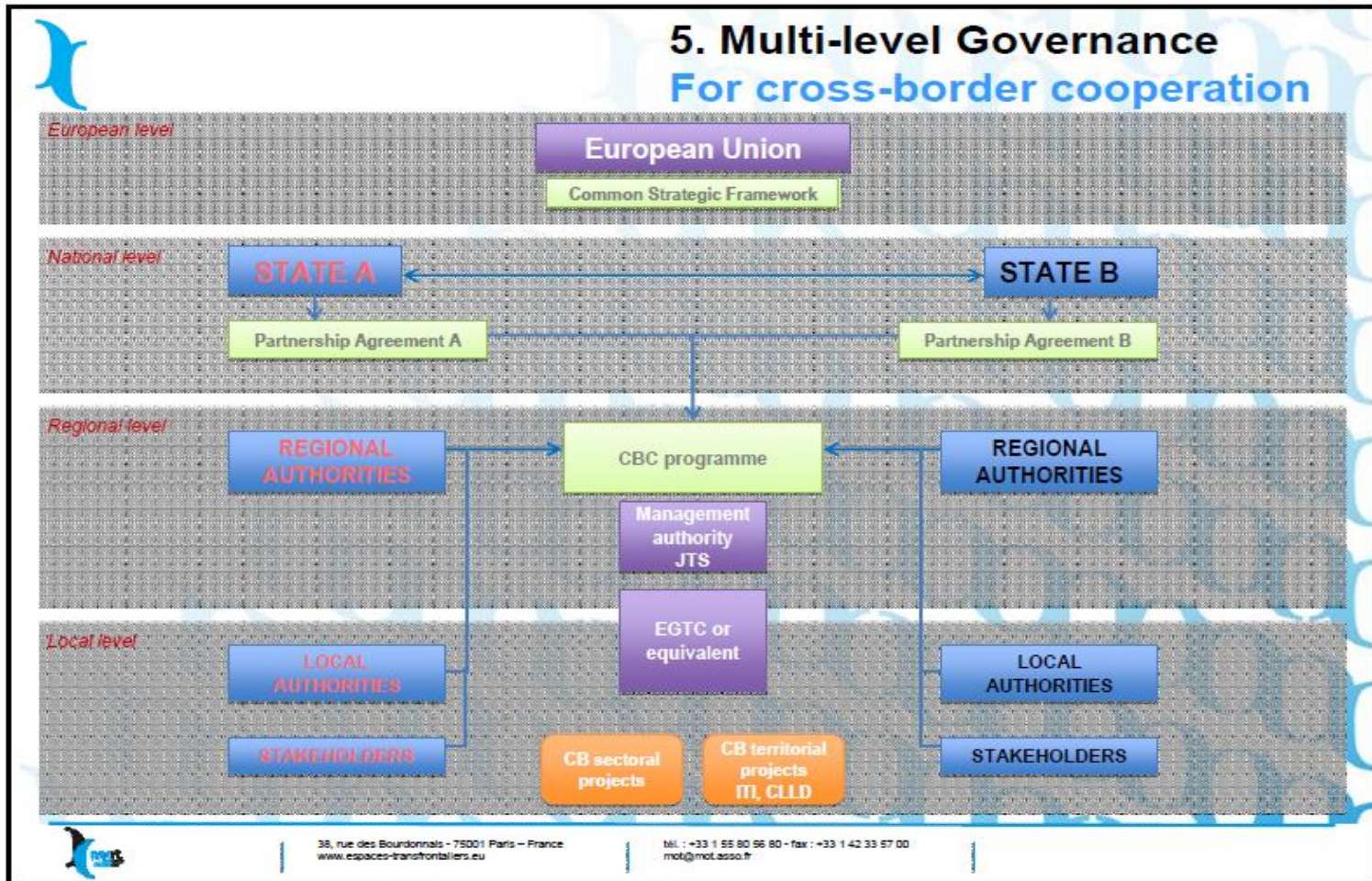


Source: TEN-T Executive Agency

Local CBC and Cohesion Policy some possible options:

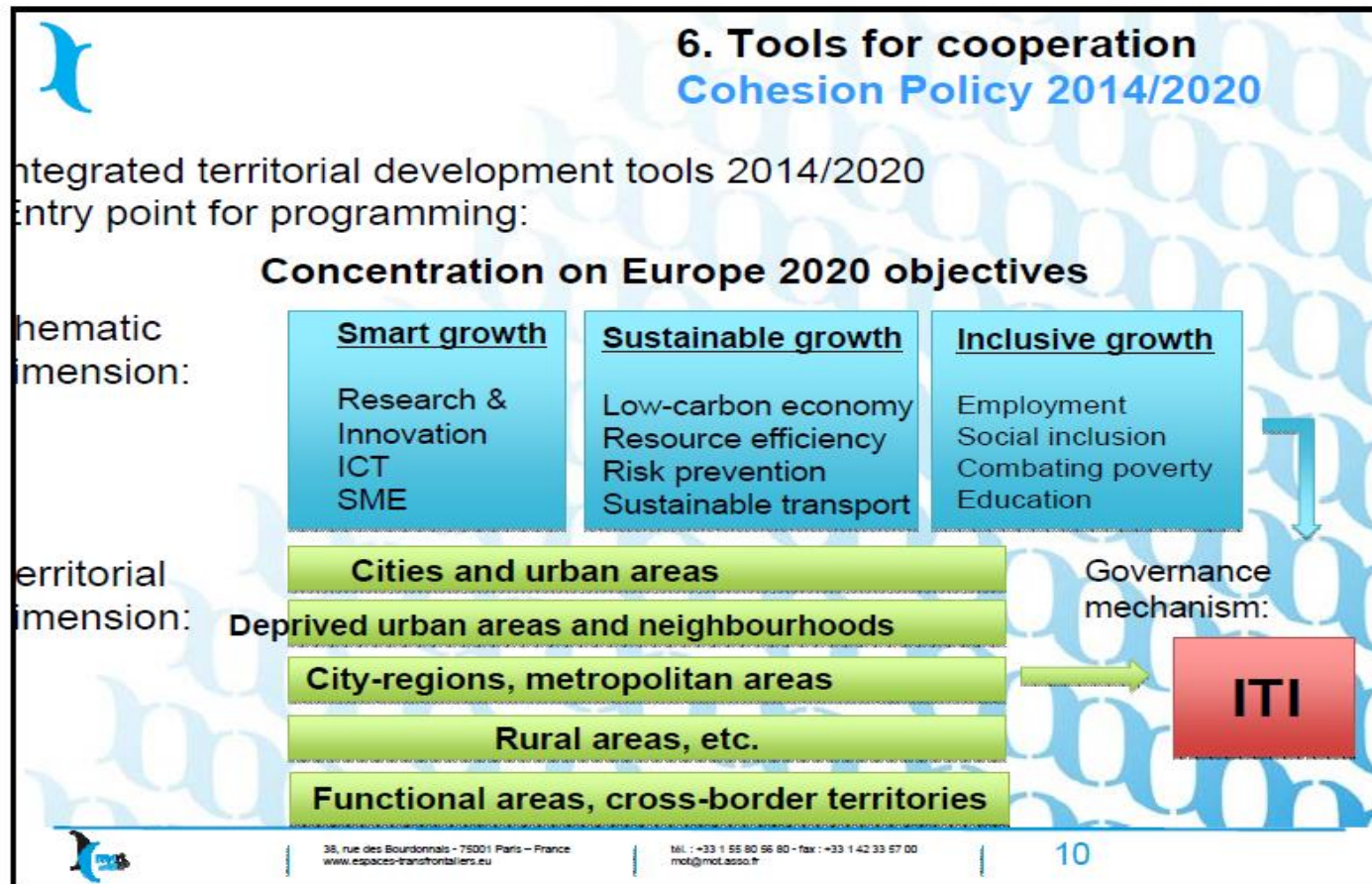
- Conceptualisation and implementation of future Cohesion Policy with a view to local/regional CBC across borders
- Greater policy + programme and strategic focus towards 'third sector' actors (NGOs, civil society)
 - Welfare role through local service provision and alternative strategies of care; youth programmes, cultural areas
 - Development through capacity-building, education, training, research, social entrepreneurship
 - Support via alternative spaces for framing development strategies, source of inspiration, local mobilisation

CBC and governance options (source: MOT/Gobert-Keckeis)



CBC, ITI and future Cohesion Policy?

(source: MOT/Gobert-Keckeis)



CBC as a place-based strategy: contextual factors decisive

- Need for more decisive and targeted support mechanisms
- Need for greater participation of civil society and local/regional level – otherwise European message restricted to policy elites
- Need for new historical-cultural thinking that transcends stereotypes and “geo-phobias”
- EU’s policy impacts need reinforcement through greater socio-cultural engagement

To conclude: some policy options?

- Create more specific incentives for local and regional CBC
- Specifically target civil society and its participation
- Integrate local knowledge in understandings of CBC's role in regional development
- Seriously pursue the ITI and CLLD concepts in cross-border contests

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Thank you



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